

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 1-6, and add new claims 7-13 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A bendable bottom member; of a bed comprising
~~in which a plurality of side by side bars are disposed side by side and bendably connected bendably~~
with each other to allow the whole extent of the connected bars to be shortened and extended and to
be curved, said bars being disposed generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the bed,
~~characterized in that~~ one of every adjacent two of the bars is provided with a plurality of
longitudinal connecting protrusions is being generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the
~~bed in the transverse direction on one face of the bar facing the adjacent bar, while a plurality of~~
recesses are formed in adjacent bars for accepting the respective connecting protrusions extending
~~from~~ are formed in the corresponding face of the ~~an~~ adjacent bar, in such a manner that the
connecting protrusions of ~~each of~~ the bars can be inserted into ~~the~~ corresponding recesses of ~~the~~ an
adjacent bar said protrusions having at tips and bases thereof first and second beveled portions,
respectively, forming clearances between the protrusions and corresponding recesses to allow the
connecting bars to be bent in one direction to connect the plurality of bars one after another for
~~allowing the whole extent of the connected bars to be shortened and extended; that and~~
disengagement preventing means are comprising hooks formed at tip of ~~in~~ some of the connecting
protrusions, and extendable into ~~in the~~ corresponding accepting recesses having steps therein
adapted to engage the hooks, so that they the hooks and steps are engaged with each other when the
respective adjacent bars are kept furthest away from each other; and that the connecting protrusions

have at the tips and bases thereof beveled portions for forming the clearances to allow the connecting bars to be bent in one direction.

2. (Currently Amended) A bendable bottom member of a bed[,] according to claim 1, wherein ~~the a~~ bar disposed at ~~the an~~ end of the bendable bottom member on one side has ~~the only~~ accepting recesses ~~only~~.

3. (Currently Amended) A bendable bottom member of a bed, according to claim 1, wherein first beveled portions are formed on ~~the~~ lower sides at ~~the~~ tips of the connecting protrusions while second beveled portions are formed on ~~the~~ upper sides at the bases of protrusions, to use the bendable bottom member as a bendable portion between the back region and the waist region.

4. (Currently Amended) A bendable member of a bed ; according to claim 1, wherein first beveled portions are formed on ~~the~~ upper sides at ~~the~~ tips of ~~the~~ connecting protrusions, while second beveled portions are formed on ~~the~~ lower sides at the bases of protrusions, to use the bendable bottom member as a bendable portion between the waist region and the leg region.

5. (Currently Amended) A bendable bottom member of a bed, according to claim 1, wherein the second beveled portions at the bases of the connecting protrusions are inclined in adaptation to the desired bending angles with the adjacent bars.

6. (Currently Amended) A bendable bottom member of a bed, according to claim 1 through 5, wherein hooks ~~are~~ formed at ~~the~~ tips of ~~the~~ connecting protrusions are provided with the disengagement preventing means while steps to be engaged with the hooks are formed in the corresponding accepting recesses.

7. (New) A bendable bottom member of a bed according to claim 2, wherein second beveled portions at bases of connecting protrusions are inclined in adaptation to desired bending angles with adjacent bars.

8. (New) A bendable bottom member of a bed, according to claim 3, wherein second beveled portions at bases of connecting protrusions are inclined in adaptation to -desired bending angles with adjacent bars.

9. (New) A bendable bottom member of a bed according to claim 4, wherein second beveled portions at bases of connecting protrusions are inclined in adaptation to desired bending angles with adjacent bars.

10. (New) A bendable bottom member of a bed according to claim 2, wherein hooks at tips of connecting protrusions are adapted to engage with steps formed in the corresponding accepting recesses.

11. (New) A bendable bottom member of a bed according to claim 3, wherein hooks at tips of connecting protrusions are adapted to engage with steps formed in -corresponding accepting recesses.

12. (New) A bendable bottom member of a bed according to claim 4, wherein hooks at tips of are adapted to engage with steps formed in corresponding accepting recesses.

13. (New) A bendable bottom member of a bed according to claim 5, wherein hooks at tips of connecting protrusions are adapted to engage with steps formed in corresponding accepting recesses.